

## VIRGINIA STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REGULATIONS

**DEFINITIONS**

8 VAC 40-130-10. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in these regulations, have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

**"Academic year"** means the academic year as defined by the institution for federal Title IV compliance purposes.

**"Applicant"** means any undergraduate student who is a domiciliary resident of Virginia, who has completed an approved application for need-based aid, and who has filed the application with the participating institution at which the student will enroll.

**"Approved course of study"** means a curriculum of courses in a certificate, diploma, or degree program at the undergraduate, graduate or first professional level.

**"Awards"** mean grants from state funds appropriated for the Virginia Student Financial Assistance Program; among these grants are the Commonwealth awards and Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program (VGAP) awards.

**"Book allowance"** means the allowance for education-related book and supply expenses as determined by an institution for purposes of calculating a student's

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financial need and awarding federal student aid funds.

**"Cost of Attendance"** means the sum of tuition, required fees, room, board, books and supplies, and other education related expenses, as determined by an institution for purposes of calculating a student's financial need and awarding federal student aid funds.

**"Council"** means the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

**"Domiciliary resident of Virginia"** means a student who is determined by the council or by a participating institution to meet the eligibility requirements specified by § 23-7.4 of the Code of Virginia.

**"Expected Family Contribution" or "EFC"** means the amount a student and the student's family is expected to contribute toward the cost of college attendance. A student's EFC will be determined by the federal aid need analysis method used for Title IV programs. The participating institution may exercise professional judgment to adjust the student's EFC, as permitted under federal law, based on factors which affect the family's ability to pay.

**"Financial need"** means any positive difference between a student's cost of attendance and the student's expected family contribution (**see definition of "remaining need"**).

**"Full-time study"** means enrollment for at least 12 credit hours per semester or its

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equivalent at the undergraduate level and enrollment for at least nine credit hours per semester or its equivalent at the graduate or first professional level. The total hours counted will not include courses taken for audit, but may include required developmental or remedial courses and other elective courses which normally are not counted toward a degree at the participating institution.

**"Gift assistance"** means financial aid in the form of scholarships, grants, and other sources that do not require work or repayment.

**"Graduate student"** means a student enrolled in an approved master's, certificate of graduate study, specialist, doctoral, or first professional degree program.

**"Half-time study"** means enrollment for at least six credit hours per semester or quarter, or its equivalent at the undergraduate level, and at least five credit hours per semester or quarter, or its institutional equivalent at the graduate level. The total hours counted will not include courses taken for audit, but may include required developmental or remedial courses and other elective courses which normally are not counted toward a certificate, diploma, or degree at the participating institution.

**"Institution"** means any public institution of higher education in Virginia participating in the Virginia Student Financial Assistance Program.

**"Program"** means the Virginia Student Financial Assistance Program.

**"Proportionate award schedule"** means the table or formula used by institutions

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to award program funds such that needier students receive larger awards than do less needy students with VGAP recipients receiving larger awards than Commonwealth recipients with equivalent need.

**"Remaining need"** means any positive difference between a student's financial need and the sum of all need-based gift assistance known by the institution at the time of packaging awards under the Virginia Student Financial Assistance Program (**see definition of "financial need"**).

**"Satisfactory academic progress"** means:

1. Acceptable progress towards completion of an approved program, as defined by the institution for the purposes of eligibility under Section 668 of the Federal Compilation of Student Financial Aid Regulations; and
2. For a student receiving a Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program award, acceptable progress towards completion of an approved program in which a student earns not less than the minimum number of credit hours required for full-time standing during an academic period and maintains a cumulative minimum grade point average of 2.0. ~~Effective July 1, 2003, satisfactory academic progress shall mean: (i) for a student receiving a Commonwealth Award, acceptable progress as defined by the institution towards completion of an approved program for the purposes of eligibility under Section 668 of the Federal Compilation of Student Financial Aid Regulations while maintaining a cumulative minimum grade point average of 2.0 at the completion of 60 or~~

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~~more credit hours for undergraduate students; and (ii) for a student receiving a Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program award, acceptable progress towards completion of an approved program in which a student earns not less than the minimum number of credit hours required for full-time standing during an academic period and maintains a cumulative minimum grade point average of 2.0; and (iii) students may receive VSFAP awards for a maximum of 15 credit hours beyond the minimum hours required to complete the student's course of study.~~

**"Undergraduate"** means a matriculated student in an approved program leading to a certificate, diploma, associate's degree, or bachelor's degree.

**"VGAP"** means the Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program, as authorized by the laws of the Commonwealth including §§ 23-38.53:4, 23-38.53:5 and 23-38.53:6 of the Code of Virginia.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **8 VAC 40-130-25. Type of awards.**

~~Any institution—~~In addition to the Commonwealth Award and the Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program, institutions may, with the approval of the council, use funds

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from its appropriation to provide the institutional contribution to any undergraduate student financial aid grant program established by the federal government or private sources which requires the matching of the contribution by institutional funds, except for programs requiring work. Awards may include one or both of the following:

1. Grants to undergraduate students enrolled full-time in an approved degree, certificate, or diploma program, and
2. Institutional contributions to federal or private undergraduate student aid grant programs requiring matching funds by the institution, except for programs requiring work.

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I certify that this regulation is full, true, and correctly dated.

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Rick Patterson,  
Assistant Director,  
Private and Out-of-State Postsecondary  
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State Council of Higher Education for  
Virginia

Date:\_\_\_\_\_.